Demand No. 3. 'General Superintendence and Services on Railways'. The expenditure incurred under this demand in the last three years is given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in cr.)
1998-99	1273
1999-2000	1385
2000-01	1420

(c) Efforts are being made to contain the expenditure in the following areas:—

i. Hospitality
ii. Commercial Advertisements and publicity
iii. Air Travel
iv. Other travelling expenses
v. Postage/Courier services
vi. Overtime allowance in offices
vii. Fees and honoraria
viii. Petrol, Diesel for road vehicles.
ix. Telephone charges especially STDs
x. Seminars/Workshops/Training
xi. Photo-copiers, fax machines
xii. Procurement of furniture and fixures
xiii. Stationery, etc.

Cost-effective strategies to improve Railway Equipment

1032. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day International Conference on evolving cost-effective strategies to improve the Railway equipment was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways, in association with the International Union of Railways (UIC) organised a User-Producer interaction programme in New Delhi on the subject "Improved Maintenance Practices and Reducing Life Cycle Cost—A common challenge for Railway Operators and Manufacturers. The programme was organised over 3 days from January 30 to February 1, 2002. It was attended by 154 Indian and Foreign delegates representing various Railways and Industries. These included 39 foreign delegates representing France, U.K., Japan, Holland, Germany, Austria, Australia, Iran, Italy, Switzerland, South Africa and Belgium.

The Seminar was an effort to establish an interface between the Railway operators and industries in the rail sector, with a view to devising strategies for reducing maintenance costs of railway infrastructure, taking advantage of new technological developments. The conference was very successful in focussing attention on the issues involved.

Collection of Railway dues from SEB's

1033. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total dues to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on 31st January, 2002; Zone-wise, State-wise;

(b) the details of the dues pending for more than two years; Zone-wise, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to collect dues from the SEBs and from the Central Power Companies;

(d) whether the Railways propose to set up its own generating units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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